

Claims

1. A method of manufacturing a number of discrete elements, comprising the steps of manufacturing an array of said discrete elements wherein each element is attached to a supporting structure and/or at least one other element by a support tab, and selectively removing or breaking the tab or tabs supporting a particular element or particular elements.
2. A method of manufacturing a number of Gunn diodes, comprising the steps of manufacturing an array of Gunn diodes wherein each Gunn diode is attached to a supporting mesh and/or at least one other Gunn diode by a support tab, and selectively removing or breaking the tab or tabs supporting a particular Gunn diode or particular Gunn diodes.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the tab or tabs are electrically conductive and are removed or broken by passing a current therethrough.
4. Apparatus for separating a selected element or selected elements from an array of inter-connected elements including a first portion capable of removing or breaking the connection or connections between a selected element and its neighbouring element or elements, and a second portion capable of picking up or otherwise removing the selected element or elements.
5. Apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the second portion includes means for applying energy to the connection or connections.
6. Apparatus according to claim 5 including means for causing a current to flow through the connection or connections.